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SOURCE Tung-pei Jih-pao.

#### NORTHEAST LOCALITIES HOLD ELECTIONS

HEILUNGKIANG LOCAL ELECTIONS -- Tung-pei Jih-pao, 17 Mar 49

Heilungkiang -- Elections for village people's representatives have been two thirds completed in 16 hsien having a total of 2,772 villages.

It is apparent that there are still many gaps in the villagers' knowledge and appreciation of their privileges, rights, and responsibilities as masters of their own destinies. Many are inclined to misunderstand the purposes of the peasant movement, and to leave matters to a few to manage as heretofore. In some instances landlords and wealthy farmers have taken advantage of this attitude to regain considerable power in local affairs.

Cadremen must be more active in educating the people so as to prevent these deviations. Three suggestions appear pertinent to the situation: (1) Overcome the complacency of the cadres and arouse the class consciousness of the peasantry to carry out a fight for their rights. (2) Oppose the inclination to allow others to bear the responsibilities that each individual should share. Some cadres have given the people the impression that names of candidates for delegate were rigged in advance, thus discouraging them from voting. (3) Revive the assemblies of people's delegates, strengthen the leadership of these organizations and guide them in the selection of really important questions for discussion.

LANDLORDS USURP POLITICAL AUTHORITY -- Tung-pei Jih-pao, 24 Mar 49

Landlords at the village of Hsia-ma-ho-tzu, in Ning-an Hsien, spread false rumors against the mayor and other local officials and secured the election of themselves and followers to these offices after obtaining places on the electoral committee with the aid of corrupt party members. They then declared that the hsien authorities had proclaimed 3 days of legal gambling at New Years. They opened a gambling place and many of the citizens lost heavily. The former officials were maligned and browbeaten. The new officials restricted the movements of party members and decreed that meetings of less than 20 party members could not be held.

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The local militia collected 20,000 yuan a day each for sentry fees at the gambling place.

The people and party members are dissatisfied with this usurpation of political power by the landlords and are now acting to correct this deviation and restore the people's authority.

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